



By the Lord Deputie and Councill.

C A Proclamation for the reformation of the great abuses in Weights and measures, and for the due execution of the Office of his Maiesties Clarke of the Market, in and throughout this Realme of Ireland.

HENRY FALKLAND.



Whereas by the Lawes and Statutes of his Maiesties Realme of Ireland there should be but one weight and measure throughout the whole Realme: Yet neuerthelesse wee are informed that there are at this day in Cities, Borowghes and corporate Townes, and in many other parts and places of this Realme false and deceitfull weights and measures of different contents one from another, and all disagreeing from his Maiesties Standart appointed to be the rule and direction for them: And whereas wee are also informed that many unconscionable persons haue and doe vse seuerall weightes and measures with the greater to buy, and the lesser to sell, And doe also vse false and deceitfull Beames and Ballances to the great losse and defrauding of his Maiesties Subiects, and especially of the poozer sorte, who are most sensible of the same: And whereas the Clarke of the Market by the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme, ought by his Office to enquire of the said abuses, and to punish and reforme the same, ought also to set reasonable and indifferent Rates and prices vpon victuals and other provisions, and to foresee that the same be wholesome, and of good condition and qualitie in their seuerall sortes, and ought also to inflict aswell pecuniarie, as corporall punishment vpon the offenders, according to the seuerall qualities and degrees of their offences: And whereas complaint hath bene made vnto vs of the great negligence vsed in the execution of the said Office, partly, for that diuerse which are trusted as Deputies to execute the same, haue bene hitherto ignorant what their power and authoritie is, and partly because diuerse of them being careless and remisse, and respecting onely their owne priuate gaines extort vniust fees, and eyther for fauour or reward spare the offenders to the publicke seruice wherewith they are trusted. Wee therefore hauing taken the premises into consideration, and foreseeing how the same might be increased, and the fraudes and abuses now generally vsed, in buying and selling (especially by Inne-keepers and others) might be suppressed, if his Maiesties Clarke of the Market by himselfe, or by honest and discrete Deputies, did diligently and faithfully execute the said Office: And wee desiring nothing more then by all good meanes to further and aduance the peace and plentie of his Subiects of this Kingdome, haue thought fit by this Proclamation being made and framed according to the Tenor of a Proclamation in that behalf, to publish and make knowne to all his Maiesties Subiects of this Realme, aswell what by the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme should and ought to be performed by his Maiesties Clarke of the Market and his Deputies, as what fees they may iustly require and what courtes they should hold for the better execution of their seruice, And what account wee expect, and haue determined to require at their ending this seruice hereafter.

Wee doe hereby signifie and declare that the Office of the Clarke of his Maiesties Market being a very auncient Office by the Lawes and Statutes of this Kingdome ought to enquire of all abuses, In weightes, Beames, Ballances and Measures, and also to enquire of all falsities, deccits and abuses in the Trades of Millers, Bakers, Brewers, Vintners, Inne-keepers, Ale-house-keepers, Whetters, Cozne-masters, Colliers, and generally of all other Artificers, Trades-men, and other persons whatsoever hauing or using weights and measures, aswell to prevent deccits and fraudes as to punish the same. And to search and enquire whether all victuals and other things put to sale by them for the sustenance or vse of Mans body, And all provisions, whether they be wholesome and of good qualitie, And whether their Manufactures be well and worke-man-like made and sold, and whether they sell at, and for reasonable and moderate gaines and not at vnreasonable and excessive prices. And that they ought especially to enquire of, and punish all foze-stallers, Ingrossers, and Regrators, who by their inordinate desire of gaine, raise the prices of all things vendible, to the decay and ouerthrow of all publicke and open Markets, and the hinderance of all Trafficke and commerce betwene Man and Man, and to the intent that his Maiesties Clarke of the Market may put in due execution that power which by the Lawes is vnto him for the furtherance of his Maiesties seruice and the seruice of the Common-wealth. And we will and straightly commaund, That his Maiesties Clarke of the Market and his Deputies, doe from henceforth withall diligence execute the said Office in all places, aswell within liberties as without, in all places and partes of this Realme whatsoever. And that from henceforth he should by himselfe, or his sufficient Deputy or Deputies once in euery yeare at the least in the seuerall Counties of this Realme, and in as many Counties as shalbe most conuenient for the generall performance of the seruice and ease of his Maiesties subiects, that he or they giue notice in writing of the times and places when, and where their Sessions shall be helde by precept, vnder his Maiesties Seale of the said Office to the high Constables within the Circuit of the Sessions, a conuenient time before such Sessions are to be helde, And that one or more of the Justice of the Peace of the Countie inhabiting within the Circuite of that Sessions, or if there be no Justice of Peace resident within that Circuite, the Justice of Peace resident next to that Circuite may vpon reasonable notice be present at euery Sessions the better to assist the Clarke of the Market to see Justice equally and indifferently executed, And that his Maiesties said Clarke of the Market, and his Deputies doe diligently and faithfully see that the Oathes of Twelue-men at the least to be Impannelled returned and sworn by him or them, in such manner as aunciently they haue beene accustomed of all offences committed within the precinct of that Sessions contrary to the Lawes and enquirable by them. And that the chiefe Constables, and Petty-Constables of euery Parish, and all other Inhabitants there, shall vpon their Oathes being thereunto required, be informed that the greatest deccits and abuses are committed in Cities, Borowghs, and Townes, and that they take speciall knowledge of this Proclamation, and bend themselves to a speedy reformation and conformation thereto.

by the chiefe-Officer straightly charge
nitie thereunto.

his Maesties name straightly charge and commaund, that his Maesties said Clarke of the Market, and his Deputies, shall
to us the Lord Deputie and Counsell of such persons as shall be found remisse or contrary herein, to the end that they
a course as their contempt shall deserue.

that the buyers (the poozer sorte especially) are much pinched by sleights and deceits used in weighing and measuring,
his name straightly charge and commaund his Maesties said Clarke of the Market for the time being, and his deputies
carefull and diligent enquire of all such fallacies and deceits, that they suppress all hooped Measures which are or may be

his Maesties name straightly charge and commaund, That no Inne-holder, nor Hostler vse any Measure of Straw or
sell or utter their Houender by, nor vse any Hostly measure but such as shall be seized and sealed by his Maesties said
time being, and every of them haue such a sealed measure continually hanging by a Chaine at the doore of their Hostly and
in their Hostries to be answerable thereunto and sealed, that so the Traveller or Passenger may not be deceived of his due

weightes or measures used by any person or persons whatsoever, but such as shall be of such matter and substance as are fit
of his Maesties said scale of the said Office, and such as shall be seized by his Maesties Standard, and sealed as aforesaid.
by his Maesties said Clarke of the Market, and that no person or persons whatsoever doe buy or sell by any other weight
commodities otherwise but by such sealed weightes and measures as aforesaid: And wee doe likewise in his Maesties name
and his Maesties said Clarke of the market and his deputies, That when any offence shall be duely discovered and duely
they doe not neglect nor omit for any respect whatsoever to asseesse reasonable fines and other punishments upon the offen-
and qualities of their offences, and the conditions of the offenders, and the same being so asseessed, that hee or they cause the
pened upon the offenders for the vse of his Maesties his heires and successors, by such wayes and meanes, as by the Lawes
are warranted and appointed, and that herein they sayle not as they will abyde his Maesties high displeasure, and that
hence herein shall deserue, and because his Maesties said Clarke of the market and his deputies may be encouraged to exe-
and integrity, and may haue their iust and reasonable fees allowed, and may not exact vnjust fees or rewardes to the
their louing Subjects wee haue thought fit herewithall to limite and expresse the due fees which he or his deputies on-
may require and take, wherein wee haue had respect vnto such fees as haue bene lately examined, and approued of by the
Maesties Officers of his highnesse Greene-cloth in England, and so remaine recorded in the counting-house there, abating the
into Irish, a Schedule of which fees allowed by us wee haue hereunto annexed: And if it shall happen the said Clarke or
of this said places, by cutting or paring, any weight or measure shall spoile or impayre the same wee hereby order and
shall make present payment of the value thereof to the owner, or if he shall directly or indirectly exact or take any greater fees
Schedule is expresse upon complaint made by any of his Maesties Subjects finding themselves iustly grieved therewith to
sell within the Province of Leinster, the President and Counsell in Hounster and Connaght respectively, the Gouvernours
where any such Gouvernour is, and where no such Gouvernour is to the Justices of Assize in their Sessions, the partie offen-
punishment, and the partie wronged shall haue speedie recompence for the same. And to the intent that his Maesties service
wee straightly charge and commaund his Maesties said Clarke of the market, that he make no deputie from henceforth,
and abillie to performe the place, which shall notwithstanding be eyther Vintner, Inne-holder, victualer or other Trades-man
and selling, And that this Proclamation for the better instructing of all his Maesties louing Subjects shall befoze the feast of
proclaymed in every market-Towne throughout this Realme, and be hanged up and fastned in a Table in every market-
may continue to be scene, and read by any that will, And further that it shall be read by the Clarke of the Crowne openly at the
in every Countie of this Kingdome respectively, and so likewise once every yeare at the generall Sessions of each Countie du-
next ensuing the Date hereof, and shall be hanged up and preserved in every Church by the Church-wardens of every Pa-
to be scene and read at all times by any that will, and that the defaults of all Officers and Church-wardens in this behalfe
by the Justices of Assize, and Justices of the Peace in their Sessions according to their discretion as contemptners of this

in his Maesties name straightly charge and commaund, That all Justices of Assize, Justices of Peace, Sherriffes, his
of the market, his deputie or deputies, and all Mayors, Sherriffes and other Officers of Cities, Boroughs, Liberties & Townes
pettie-Constables, Thytting-men and other his Maesties Officers and ministers in all places whatsoever, doe cause this
executed, and to be from time to time ayding and assisting to their vttermost vnto his Maesties said Clarke of the mar-
execution of his office as they tender the good proceedings of his Maesties service herein the Common-wealth of this
Maesties high displeasure. Given at his Maesties Castle of Dublin the fifth day of february. 1627.

C A Declaration of the Fees due, and to be allowed to the Clarke of the Market
for the execution of his Office.

Barrell or Busbell, entring the same with
the owner. — iiii. d. Irish
Barrell or Busbell, for entring the same,
the same. — ii. d. Ir.
every lesser measure or weight, for entring the
selling places of the owners thereof. — i. d.
victualers his name, his dwelling place, and
of every particular victualers Ale and Beere,
many, and for entring the same. — ii. d. Ir.
Inne-holders, and Victualers name and
ing or examining of every particular Inne-
and Beere, wine, and Hostly measures be
entring the same. — iiii. d. Irish
names and dwelling places of every Butcher,
Clothier, or any other person entring of all

their weightes, measures, Els, Wardes, Beames, and Ballances, and for
tryng and examining of the same be they neuer so many. — ii. d. Irish
Item for new sealing of every Ell, or Warde at both ends, entring the
same with the names and dwelling places of the owners thereof. — ii. d.
Item for tryng and examining of every Busbell or Barrell formerly
sealed, entring the same with the names and dwelling places of the ow-
ners thereof. — ii. d. Irish
Item for tryng and examining of every lesser measure formerly sealed,
entring of the same with the name and dwelling place of the owners
thereof. — i. d. Irish
Item for tryng and examining of every weight and measure of any
person or persons that shall be found repugnant vnto his Maesties Stan-
dard which shall sell any commodities by a lesser weight or measure, or
shall buy any commodities by a greater weight or measure to the deceit of
his Maesties Subjects. — ii. d. Irish.

Thom. Cromwell.
Will. Caulfield.
Will. Parsons.
Will. Stewart.

Dom. Kilmallocke.
Henry Docwra.
Dud. Norton.

Th. Baltinglasse.
Fr. Aungier.
Char. Coote.

God saue the King.